

PURPLE MOUNTAINS MAJESTY! Junior Brittany Lambros went west for her summer vacation and landed in Estes Park, Colorado. Lambros went with her sister and youth group and met up with about 1,800 teens from all over the United States. She bravely hiked up mountains, went white water rafting, and went horseback riding in the Rocky Mountains. The hikes were long but gave Lambros outstanding views of America's beauty. Since they were out in the middle of nature, there were no bathrooms which proved to be a little bit of a problem. The group coped and proceeded to enjoy the gorgeous weather and bond with one another. The white water rafting was both exhilarating and freezing but was an experience Lambros will never forget. After the physical workout, Lambros enjoyed the company of old and new friends. "It was just an amazing experience. And knowing that everyone is there for the same reason you are is just a great feeling," Lambros stated.



THE MAGICAL WORLD OF DISNEY! Hurricane Watch 2004 was a familiar phrase to sophomore Lindsay Port. Port and her family traveled to Florida to go to Disney World. When she first arrived, there was enough time to go to some of the parks, but soon enough, the clouds rolled in. From the experience of the trip, she learned that one could never be too cautious, especially when the storm coming at you is a category five. When Port and her family were about to leave, their flight was canceled. Luckily at the last minute, they found four first class tickets and were able to leave Florida. Port's advice to someone stuck in a hurricane: "One, stock up on food and drinks for at least three days. Two, stay in a room that is in the middle of the house between two large pieces of furniture. And three, Once the winds start coming, go inside and don't go out until the winds considerably die down." One thing's for sure, her trip to Disney was one crazy ride.

HOLA MINNESOTA! Senior Brittany Speer traveled to Callaway, Minnesota to attend Concordia College's Spanish Language Village. For three weeks, Speer lived with Spanish students and attended Spanish language and culture classes. There was one catch: she could only speak Spanish-nothing else! She was not allowed to use the phone, listen to her own music, or read any books in English. "I learned just how difficult it is to be immersed in an unfamiliar language and how to cope with such a language barrier. I also learned some Spanish too!" Speer exclaimed. Speer's favorite part was meeting all of the people, especially her many teachers. The teachers provided a friendly environment for her to learn. "They came from varied walks of life, poor to rich, and were from countries ranging from Spain, Argentina, Peru, to Senegal in Africa," Speer explained.

